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GARBAGE GAZETTE

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

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Recycled Products Trade Show Scheduled for June

Connecticut DEP's Recycling Program, in conjunction with other state and business organizations, is planning a recycled/reusable/refillable products trade show this June. The program will target businesses and public sector agencies. It will offer workshops/lectures on how to buy recycled for both the private and public sector. The trade show will provide purchasing agents with an opportunity to see both the variety and quality of recycled/reusable/refillable products available in the marketplace today. If your company produces a product which utilizes recyclables (especially post-consumer) as a raw material or is a reusable/refillable product (rather than disposable) and you would like more information about exhibiting at the trade show, contact Judy Belaval at (203) 424-3365. Watch for updates in upcoming issues of the Gazette.

Paper Prices on the Rise

As you may have noticed during your latest trip to the supermarket, or last time you ordered xerographic paper, the prices for **ALL** paper products have skyrocketed - that includes paper made from virgin pulp and paper made from waste paper. Cutbacks in paper production and decreased capacity during the recent recessionary economy coupled with current economic recovery and subsequent increased demand for paper, have been offered as explanations for the price increases. Waste paper and wood pulp prices also have exploded - resulting in a mixed bag for those dealing with paper. It has been a boon for some involved with selling waste paper and wood pulp and an unbelievable economic burden for some paper mills.

The current paper prices also present both good and bad news for purchasers of recycled xerographic paper. The bad news is that prices have skyrocketed for both virgin and recycled content xerographic paper. For example, the last state contract (10/1/94-12/31/94) for virgin content xerographic paper (8½x11) was awarded at $1.807/ream. The lowest bid for virgin content xerographic paper submitted for the current contract was $2.42/ream. The good news is that the price for recycled content xerographic paper did not increase as much as did the price for virgin content xerographic paper, and, as a result, bids for recycled and virgin content high grade xerographic paper were, for the first time in years, within 10% of each other.

CT Reproduces Pennsylvania's "Buy Recycled" Poster

The Recycling Program has reproduced a 4-color "Buy Recycled" poster with permission of the Pennsylvania Office of Solid Waste Minimization. This poster is 18" X 26" and illustrates the recycling processes for glass, metal, paper and plastic in a colorful, fun cartoon drawing. The poster is effective as a teaching aid for children of any age or as a pleasant reminder to buy recycled in a business setting. These posters are available free to CT schools, municipalities and businesses. Order now to have a supply on hand for Earth Day 25! If you would like to order this item contact, Meg Enkler.

"NEXT MONTH - ANNUAL RECYCLING RATE FOR 1993/1994"

State Contract Meets Clinton's Executive Order

As a result of recent legislation, the current contract for state agency purchase of xerographic paper has been awarded for paper meeting the standards of Clinton's federal Executive Order #12873 - i.e. 20% post-consumer content. The contract extends from 1/1/95-3/31/95 and was awarded to Lindenmeyer-Munroe @ $2.625/ream for 8½x11 high grade xerographic paper. Although most state contracts for recycled content products are open to purchase by political subdivisions, the present paper shortage and potential availability problems for all paper, both virgin content and recycled content, has resulted in the current vendor not extending the contract to political subdivisions.

In addition to this paper's extremely desirable post-consumer content, **it is also recyclable in high grade office paper recycling programs** (unlike some recycled xerographic paper made from recycled newspaper and magazines, which is not recyclable in high grade office paper recycling programs).

The present limited availability for all types of paper may be a good incentive for all of us to begin practicing some of those paper conservation tips that seem like common sense, but somehow never seem to get put into practice: use both sides of the paper; use electronic mail instead of routing paper memos; reuse envelopes; use scrap paper for memo pads; etc. And, when you can't think of any other ways to reuse the paper - recycle it!

CRC Home Waste Audit Pilot Project Begins

The Connecticut Recyclers Coalition (CRC) will launch their home waste audit pilot project this month. The purpose of the pilot project is to encourage consumers to reduce the volume and toxicity of the trash that they produce, as well as reduce their use of energy and water. CRC chose to do a pilot project so that they would be able to measure the effectiveness of an intensive educational effort on the natural resource utilization of a small group of individuals.

Participants in the project will attend monthly meetings, at which they will turn in data on their utility bills, the weight of their trash and the weight of items recycled. This data will be collected for a six-month period. The participants will attend a number of workshops and tours on topics such as composting, grasscycling, environmental shopping, closing the loop, etc.. Speakers will address the groups on how to reduce energy and water usage, xeriscaping and other topics. In addition, each participant will receive "Your Little Green Book", an original publication designed specifically for this project. Feedback from individuals participating will be used to improve and refine this publication.

A total of seven municipalities/regions are participating in this project. They include: Windsor, Bloomfield, Danbury, Hartford, Middletown, the Litchfield Hills Region, and Killingly/Northeast Region. This program is a project of the Education Committee of the CRC. Partial funding for production of "Your Little Green Book" and other pilot project expenses is being provided by CT DEP Recycling Trust Fund Education Grants. If you have any questions about this project, contact Meg Enkler, DEP Recycling Education Coordinator, at (203) 424-3365.

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